

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/832,678

Examiner

Gregory J. Strimbu

Applicant(s)

CLARK ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the after final amendment of May 24, 2004 and the tele. int. of June 23, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-49.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 4/11/01 and 6/12/02
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 6/23/04
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas Helmholtz on June 23, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the title:

changed the title to --A METHOD FOR CONTROLLING A POWER SLIDING VAN DOOR--

In the specification:

paragraph 1,

line 2, inserted --now U.S. Patent Number 6,430,875-- following "1999,"

paragraph 83,

line 6, inserted --, now U.S. Patent Number 5,906,071-- following "1997"

In the claims:

claim 20,

line 6, changed the second occurrence of "motion" to --the movement--

line 12, inserted --the-- following "controlling"

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of:

generating said at least one motion input signal with the at least one sensor positioned between the moveable member and the reversible electric motor, the at least one input signal including an input signal to the control means representative of speed of the movement of the moveable member along the fixed path of travel.

claim 26,

line 3, inserted --second-- following the first occurrence of "one"

line 4, inserted --second-- following "one"

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 ~~wherein the control means further comprises~~ comprising the step of:

controlling a speed of the moveable member while moving between a first position and a second position in response to the at least one motion input signal ~~from the reversible electric motor~~, wherein ~~[[a]]~~ the at least one sensor is mounted to a

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portion of the clutch disposed between the reversible electric motor and the moveable member.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 ~~wherein the control means further comprises~~ comprising the step of:

detecting an obstruction along a the fixed path of the moveable member while the moveable member is moving between a first position and a second position in response to the at least one motion input signal ~~from the reversible electric motor~~, wherein ~~[[a]]~~ the at least one sensor is connected to a portion of the clutch disposed between the reversible electric motor and the moveable member.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling movement of a movable closure ~~member~~ comprising the steps of:

selectively driving ~~[[a]]~~ the moveable member along a fixed path of travel between first and second end limits of movement either in a first direction or in a second direction opposite from the first direction along the fixed path of travel in response to actuation of a reversible electric motor;

generating at least one input signal corresponding to the movement ~~motion~~ of the moveable member along the fixed path of travel with ~~at least one~~ a sensor positioned between the reversible electric motor and the moveable member;

selectively actuating the reversible electric motor in accordance with a control program of control means responsive to the at least one input signal for controlling the movement of the moveable member; and

controlling the moveable member while moving between a first position and a second position along the fixed path in response to ~~[[a]]~~ the sensor mounted to a portion of a clutch positioned between the reversible electric motor and the moveable member, the sensor for sensing movement of the clutch when the moveable member moves along the fixed path.

claim 31,

line 3, deleted "of the moveable member"

line 5, changed both occurrences of "position" to --end limit--

claim 32,

line 9, inserted --the-- following "to"

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32 further comprising the steps of:

sensing movement of the clutch in response to the movement of the moveable member, ~~where the at least one sensor includes a sensor operably positioned~~ with respect to the clutch, where the translator includes a reversible electric motor and the clutch is positioned between the motor and the moveable member; and

detecting an obstruction along a the fixed path of travel ~~the moveable member~~ while the moveable member is moving between the first and second end limits of movement ~~in response to~~ with the at least one ~~sensor operably positioned with respect to the clutch positioned between the reversible electric motor and the moveable member.~~

claim 34,

line 10, deleted "the at least one sensor"

line 11, deleted "including"

claim 35,

line 1, changed "further comprising" to --wherein--

line 2, deleted "the step of"

deleted line 3

line 4, deleted "positioned with respect to . . . member,"

line 5, changed "including" to --includes--

36. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling movement comprising the steps of:

moving a moveable closure along a fixed non-linear path of travel between first and second end limits of movement to open and close a portal through a barrier in response to activation of a reversible electric motor;

selectively driving the moveable closure in a first direction and in a second direction opposite from the first direction along the fixed path of travel with the reversible electric motor;

generating at least one input signal corresponding to ~~motion~~ movement of the moveable closure along the fixed path of travel with at least one sensor positioned on a clutch located between the reversible electric motor and the moveable ~~member~~ closure; and

selectively actuating the motor in accordance with a control program for controlling the movement of the moveable ~~member~~ closure in response to the at least one input signal.

claim 37,

line 4, changed the first occurrence of "a" to --the--

claim 38,

line 6, changed "the moveable closure" to --travel--

claim 39,

line 3, deleted "for"

line 4, deleted "the at least one sensor including"

claim 40,

line 3, deleted "the at least one"

line 4, deleted "sensor including"

claim 41,

line 4, deleted "the at least one sensor including"

line 6, changed the last occurrence of "an" to --the--

42. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling movement comprising the steps of:  
moving a moveable member along a fixed path of travel between first and second end limits of movement in response to activation of first driving means for driving the moveable member;

selectively driving the moveable member in a first direction and in a second direction opposite from the first direction along the fixed path of travel with the first driving means, the first driving means being responsive to control means for selectively actuating the first driving means, the first driving means including a reversible electric motor and a clutch positioned between the reversible electric motor and the moveable member;

generating at least one input signal corresponding to ~~motion~~ movement of the moveable member along the fixed path of travel with ~~at least one~~ a sensor positioned between the first driving means and the moveable member, the ~~at least one~~



~~sensor including~~ a sensor mounted to a portion of the clutch for sensing movement of the clutch when the moveable member moves along the fixed path; and

selectively actuating the first driving means in accordance with a control program with control means responsive to the at least one input signal, the control means for controlling the moveable member while moving between a the first position end limit and a the second position end limit along the fixed path in response to the sensor mounted to the portion of the clutch positioned between the reversible electric motor and the moveable member.

claim 43,

line 3, changed "the moveable member" to --travel--

line 4, changed both occurrences of "a" to --the--

changed line 5 to --with the sensor--

line 6, deleted "the reversible . . . the control means"

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42 further comprising the steps of:

moving a striker between a first position and a second position in response to actuation of second driving means in response to the control means, the striker operably engagable with the moveable member when the moveable member is in proximity with the first end limit of movement along the fixed path;

selectively driving the striker between the first position to engage the moveable member with a frame and the second position where the moveable member is disengaged with respect to the frame with second driving means ~~being responsive to the control means~~; and

generating at least one position input signal, the at least one position input signal including an engaged-disengaged input signal ~~to the control means~~ representative of the first position and the second position with ~~the at least one sensor~~ including a position sensor located with respect to the second driving means.

claim 45,

line 1, changed "further" to --wherein--

line 2, deleted "comprising the step of"

line 3, deleted "generating . . . signal,"

line 4, changed "including" to --includes-- and deleted "to the control means"

line 5, deleted "with the position . . . respect to the"

line 6, deleted "frame and the moveable member"

claim 46,

line 3, changed "the moveable member" to --travel--

line 5, deleted "in response to the sensor"

deleted line 6

line 7, deleted "member"

claim 47,

line 4, deleted "connected to a portion of the"

line 5, deleted "clutch"

line 6, deleted "to the control means"

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42 further comprising the steps of:

sensing an amount of current supplied to the motor and generating a sensed current signal with ~~the at least one sensor including~~ a current sensor; and

controlling the movement of the moveable member between the first and second end limits of movement along the fixed path with the control means ~~being responsive to the sensed current signal from the current sensor.~~

claim 49,

line 1, deleted "wherein the"

line 2, deleted "controlling step" and changed "comprises" to --comprising--

line 3, deleted "with a central processing unit"

line 4, changed "the" to --a--

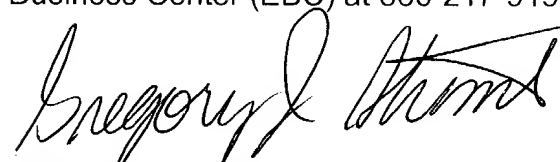
line 5, deleted "with the central processing unit"

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Strimbu whose telephone number is 703-

305-3979. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 703-308-2486. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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Primary Examiner  
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June 23, 2004